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(54) Title: **NELL-1 ENHANCED BONE MINERALIZATION**

(57) Abstract: This invention pertains to the discovery that the human NELL-1 gene induces or upregulates bone mineralization. The HELL-1 gene or gene product thus provides a convenient target for screening for modulators of bone mineralization. In addition, HELL-1 can be used to facilitate repair of bone fractures and/or to generally increase bone density.

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